



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana
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IM Weekly Highlights



- Trunking equipment is now installed and is operational at the Judith Peak and South Moccasin sites. Motorola will begin coverage testing in the near future.
- Aviat Network's crews continue installation of the PSIC-3 microwave project. All sites now have most of the outdoor equipment installed. The process of turning up hops at higher elevation sites in southwest Montana will start soon.
- IM-sponsored Master Site Controller technical training took place this week at the Sheriff's Office in Lewis and Clark County. The IM would like to extend a big thank you to Sheriff Leo Dutton for hosting the two week-long training sessions!

WBIWG Registrations Needed

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Western Border Interoperability Working Group (WBIWG) meeting is an important border communications initiative started in 2005. Interested parties have been meeting every year since then to discuss interoperability issues, coordinate planning and take advantage of networking opportunities. In 2008, the group met in Canada for the first time, and a plan was developed to host the event in the US and Canada every other year.



This year's Working Group meeting is being hosted by the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing in Regina, Saskatchewan (Airport Code YQR). The dates are Nov. 16 through Nov. 18. Director Kevin Roche and his staff have put a lot of effort into developing an outstanding agenda of speakers and topics. Now, your help is needed to increase the number of registrants.

A current agenda, registration form and information sheet are available on our website at <http://pssb.mt.gov/wbiwg/meetings.mcpx>. Please fill out the registration form as soon as possible and either e-mail or fax it back to Chris Belhumeur (chris.belhumeur@gov.sk.ca; Fax: 306-787-1694).

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Room reservations may be made by calling the Quality Inn at 888-569-1717.

WBIWG meetings offer a unique opportunity for representatives from Western border provinces and states to interact with each other about public safety communications and technologies. Readers may recall that this year's event was originally planned for last May and was postponed to the fall to allow for increased participation. Please don't delay in signing up. An accurate head count of participants is needed as soon as possible.

Mike Kilby Retires; Steps Down as Big Sky 11 Consortium Chair

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

At the Big Sky 11 Consortium meeting that took place in Billings on Oct. 21, members learned that Mike Kilby, Musselshell County Commissioner, will be retiring as a commissioner. Mike currently serves as the consortium's Chair, the position that serves as a proxy for the Project Director at meetings. Although a quorum was not present to formally elect his replacement, Duane Winslow, Yellowstone County DES, offered to assist Sheriff Fisher with Mike's duties until an election is held.

At the consortium meeting, Mike Kilby reported on the Montana Association of Counties (MACo) annual meeting and said that MACo passed a policy statement in support of the IM. It was explained that a policy statement provides more flexibility than a resolution in the event that the language of a bill changes during the legislative process. Mike also explained the user fee system that was adopted at the most recent IM Project Directors meeting. The IMPD also approved its 2011 Budget, which includes special provisions for assisting Lewis and Clark County with funding for the technical support it provides to the IM. Mike emphasized the need to have members of the Legislature support the bill for an interim study commission.

Mike Linder, Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office and IM Technical Committee (IMTC) representative, reported on upcoming power installations at the Colburn and Greeno sites. He also let the group know that a company has been hired to perform generator retrofits along the Northern Tier. In addition, he said that the committee is in the process of developing site maintenance and supply checklists.

Anne Kindness said the re-banding project in the City of Billings is continuing. Due to "receive" sensitivity issues in the software of the portable radios, the new radios had to be re-programmed and

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re-configured. The City is expecting the first lot of 100 radios to be delivered next week. They also are in the process of securing new frequencies for interop channels. Anne explained that the new, free radios do not address any deficiencies in the Billings radio system, but they do buy some time until the GEO-COM study recommendations can be implemented.

Members clarified their desire to hold meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month. However, because the fourth Thursday in Nov. is the Thanksgiving holiday, the group decided to meet on Thurs., Dec. 2 and not hold a meeting later in December because of the holidays. The Technical Committee meeting will begin at 9:00 am and the general meeting will start at 10:00 am. The meeting will take place at Yellowstone County EOC, 2305 8th Ave. North, in Billings.

MT APCO Honors Public Safety Workers

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

The Montana Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) recognized outstanding workers in the field at its 2010 conference in Bozeman last week.

APCO International President Bill Carrow presented Rachel Roberts, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) with the Montana Telecommunicator of the Year award. Her counterpart at MHP, Michele Rogers, won the Supervisor of the Year award.

Chouteau County dispatcher Mary Kassmier won the Trainer of the Year award, while the manager/director award was shared by Chouteau County Communications Manager Kimberly Burdick and Susan Bomstad, Assistant Manager for Missoula 9-1-1 and the current president of the Montana Chapter of APCO. No submissions were received for Technician of the Year.

Recipients received a plaque and a check for \$250. All of Montana's winners now will be considered for national awards. Everyone is encouraged to start thinking about award nominations for next year, which will take place at the Montana APCO conference at the Red Lion Inn in Kalispell next October.

Everyone at the Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB) salutes this year's winners and add our congratulations and thanks for their dedication, innovation and hard work.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Mon., Oct. 25**
IM Technical Committee (IMTC)
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
MACo Offices, 2715 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., Oct. 26**
Tri-County Consortium
Helena • 10:00 am - noon
IM Offices, 2717 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., Oct. 26**
State Agency Radio Users Task Force
Helena • 9:00 am – 10:30 am
Old Livestock Building, 1310 Lockey St., Rm. 109
- **Tues.-Wed., Oct. 26- 28**
Advanced Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Course
Big Timber • 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Carnegie Public Library, 314 McLeod Street
Sweet Grass County 9-1-1; Call 800-363-9127 to register
- **Thurs., Oct. 28**
I-15/90 Corridor Consortium
Butte • 10:00 am – noon
Chamber of Commerce, 1000 George St.
- **Mon., Nov. 8**
IM Finance Committee (IMFC)
Helena • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Anderson ZurMuehlen
828 Great Northern Blvd.
- **Mon., Nov. 8**
IM Governance Committee (IMGC)
Helena • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Anderson ZurMuehlen
828 Great Northern Blvd.
- **Tues., Nov. 9**
IM Project Directors Meeting (IMPD)
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
MACo Large Conf. Rm., Lower Level
2715 Skyway Dr.
- **Mon-Tues., Nov. 8-9**
Montana Independent Telecom Systems (MITS)
Symposium
Helena • Red Lion Colonial Hotel, 2301 Colonial Dr.
<http://www.mitstel.com/Symposium/>
- **Tues.-Thurs., Nov. 16-18**
Western Border Interoperability Working Group
Regina, SK • Hosted by the Ministry of Corrections,
Public Safety and Policing
RCMP Depot, 6101 Dewdney Ave.
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APCO International President Bill Carrow & Montana APCO President Susan Bomstad present public safety awards to Rachel Roberts, Michele Rogers and Mary Kassmier. Kimberly Burdick & Susan Bomstad share the director/manager of the year award.